

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1797

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, IT

SUBJECT: LA MADDALENA: UHF ANTENNA ON NSO BUILDING

1. BIA AMENDMENT FOR LA MADDALENA CONTINUES IN ITALIAN BUREAUCRATIC LIMBO. MEANWHILE, IN VIEW OPERATIONAL NECESSITY FOR UHF LINK, COUPLED WITH ASSURANCES OF LOW VISIBILITY, EMBASSY AGREES ANTENNA MAY BE INSTALLED AT NSO BUILDING. HOWEVER, THE LINK SHOULD NOT, REPEAT NOT, BE USED TO PROVIDE AFN BROADCASTS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS PLANS FOR THIS PURPOSE HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE AMBASSADOR.

2. IN GENERAL, UNTIL THERE IS AN AMENDMENT TO THE BIA REGULARIZING THE STATUS OF SHORE-BASED PERSONNEL, IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT LOCAL POLITICAL OR COMMERCIAL INTERESTS ARE IN A POSITION TO CHALLENGE ANY NSO ACTIVITY OR NSO-PROVIDED AMENITIES THAT WOULD OTHERWISE NOT BE SUBJECT TO ITALIAN REGULATION AND CONTROL OR TAXATION. SUCH CHALLENGES COULD HAVE ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS EVEN AT OTHER FACILITIES IN ITALY.
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